

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-19 AF-10

ARA-16 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EA-11 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 105706

R 051846Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 420

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2075

BEIRUT PASS USINT DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAF, XF, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF PORTION OF APRIL 4 TELEGRAM FROM BELGIAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE CITED AS SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION.

2. QUOTE: CONCERNING CONTROVERSY BETWEEN DAYAN AND PENTAGON ON SUBJECT OF SYRIAN ARMAMENTS, I TRANSMIT TO YOU FOLLOWING INFORMATION COLLECTED FROM MILITARY ATTACHES OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. FIRST, RESERVE UNITS OF SYRIAN ARMY HAVE BEEN REINFORCED WITH T-62 TANKS, TRANSPORTABLE ARTILLERY, AND MISSILES WITH REDUCED RANGE OF TEN TO FIFTEEN KILOMETERS (ARTILLERIE PORTEE ET MISSILES PORTEE REDUITE DIX A QUINZE KM). SECOND, CONSIDERABLE REINFORCEMENT OF MEANS OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE WITH SAM SIX AND SAM SEVEN MISSILES AND INCREASING NUMBER OF RADAR BASES. THIRD, ACQUISITION OF LONG-RANGE VECTORS (VECTEURS DE LONGUE PORTEE) OF UP TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY KILOMETERS. THEY DO NOT SEEM TO BE EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS BUT POSSIBILITY  
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EXISTS. FOURTH, NO MIG-23'S HAVE BEEN SPOTTED UP TO NOW BUT

SYRIA MAY POSSESS SU-11 AND  
SU-20 HIGH ALTITUDE FIGHTER BOMBERS. FIFTH, CUBAN TROOPS  
PROBABLY DO NOT NUMBER AS MUCH AS A BRIGADE, BUT ONLY A  
BATTALION, I.E., ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED MEN DISTRIBUTED IN  
COMMANDO UNITS. THEY RECENTLY TOOK PART IN OPERATIONS AND  
HAD AT LEAST TWO KILLED SENT BACK TO CUBA. A CERTAIN NUMBER  
OF THEM MAKE UP TEAMS FOR SOVIET TANKS. IT IS CERTAIN THEY  
ARE NOT INSTRUCTORS. NORTH KOREANS, ON OTHER HAND, HAVE  
SERVED FOR LONG TIME AS INSTRUCTORS FOR SYRIANS AVIATION. THEY  
BECAME OPERATIONAL AFTER OCTOBER WAR TO REPLACE PAKISTANIS.  
PRESENTLY FILL VOID LEFT BY SYRIAN PILOTS SENT TO USSR FOR  
TRAINING IN OPERATION OF SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING  
MIG-23 AND OTHER. UNQUOTE.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY CAPABILITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BRUSSE02075  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740078-0497  
**From:** BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740463/aaaacfnp.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SYRIAN MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS  
**TAGS:** MCAP, XF, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005